THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 27th March 1953.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at half-past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Increase in the export quota of onions.

*208 *Q.*—SRI G. C. KONDAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether repeated representations have been made to the Madras Government by concerned commercial bodies from August 1952 pointing out the inadequacy of the export quota of onions and the great accumulation of stocks, and if so, what action has been taken by the Government?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" Representations have been received pleading for an increase in the export quota of onions. This Government had informed the Government of India that this State could afford to spare only a quantity of 1,000 tons of onions for export to foreign countries during the second half year of 1952 and that the export of even this quantity should be confined to the period July to September 1952 as the last quarter of the year is generally a lean period when it is not desirable to allow any export. But instead of fixing a separate export quota for this State the Government of India fixed the quota on an All-India basis for the second half year of 1952. Out of the All-India quota of 15,000 tons as much as 5,804 tons were exported from Madras State during the period July to September 1952 and more would have been exported during the remaining 3 months of the year. Thus much more than what this State could afford to export consistent with its own requirements was exported during the second half year of 1952."

SRI VAVILALA GOPALAKRISHNAIAH:—" Are the Government aware of the fact that there is much stagnation of stock of onions in the Andhra area just now? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" This question relates to the year 1952. About the present position, if a separate question is put, I will be able to answer."

SRI N. SIVARAMI REDDI:—" Sir, is it not a fact that owing to the failure of this Government to communicate in time to the Centre about the surplus stock in the State and the necessity for allowing exports by the beginning of this year the onion growers have been put to severe loss this year? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" I do not think that is correct."